

08/06/2007

### HOUSE APPROVES DEFENSE FUNDING FOR CHIPPEWA VALLEY HIGH-TECH FIRMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. â€“ Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the House of Representatives has approved his request for \$14 million in next year's budget for the Department of Defense for military research and development work being conducted by three high-tech firms in the Chippewa Valley.

â€œWith troops deployed around the world, the US military is always looking for new technology that will multiply the strength and effectiveness of each soldier while improving their protection so they can return home safely. From supercomputers to better food packages, the high-tech companies in the Chippewa Valley are providing a lot of that technology,â€ said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. â€œHopefully this funding will not only enhance the capabilities of our armed forces but also help protect jobs in the Chippewa Valley.â€

Specifically, the House approved Obey's request for:

- \$5 million to allow the Naval Research Laboratory's Center for Computational Science to build a prototype high-performance scalable supercomputer developed by SGI. Supercomputing is a critical tool for support of many military missions; from intelligence analysis to code breaking, to simulations for training, to complex modeling for weather forecasting and advanced materials design for armor and weaponry. The Naval Research Laboratory is charged

with developing these tools for the Navy's particular missions, and these funds are intended to allow them to continue this ongoing project.

- \$5 million for ongoing development of better packaging for military rations â€“ known as Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) â€“ by Pliant Corporation for the U.S. Combat Feeding Program, which is responsible for innovations in the supply chain that keep our military fed in the field. Improved packaging means that food can stay fresh and uncontaminated for longer periods, and ultimately that soldiers can be sustained longer in the field without resupply.

- \$4 million to allow the Navy to develop modernized replacement components for critical radar systems that are facing shortages of spare parts. As a proven manufacturer of military electronics with experience combining old and new technologies, Rex Systems Inc. is a leading competitor for the project.

The defense budget was passed by the House over the weekend; however, it must still be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law. â€œBut having these projects included in the House approved version means a major hurdle has been cleared,â€ Obey concluded.

# # #